



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Knotts, et al. Art Unit 2834  
Serial No.: 09/896,367 Examiner Guillermo Perez  
Filed: June 28, 2001  
Title: Apparatus for Reducing Spindle Motor Magnetic Drag

#9/A  
D. EVANS  
1.14.03

Box Non Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Amendment**

In response to the action mailed September 11, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please amend paragraph 0005, 0008 and 0021 to read as follows:

AI

[0005] Currently, disk drive spindle motors are being operated at increasingly higher speeds in order to speed up access times and increase storage capacities. In current spindle motor design, the problem arises from the fact that the magnet, as described above, has a plurality of poles. The inventors have recognized that when a magnet with a plurality of poles is moving at high speed near a piece of metal, then the stray flux emitted by the magnet may interact with that metal and create a drag on the rotating magnet. The faster the speed of the rotation of the magnet past the metal, (such as is found in the flange or base of the housing of a disc drive), the more drag is created. This can create a serious power loss in the disc drive system. Thus, the problem